



CORRESPONDENCE

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

98 0711-024
Docket OST-98-3863
Correspondence - 136
Part 300 file

43252

The Honorable Bill Archer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Archer:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted the *1998 U.S.-Brazil Combination Service-Case*, Docket OST-983863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service **from** Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure *you* can understand that I **cannot comment** on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-98-3863 and in the file for contacts outside the record of the case.

Identical letters have been sent to the other cosigners of your letter.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please contact me or Steven Palmer, Assistant Secretary for *Governmental Affairs*, at (202) 366-4573.

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Slater

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
98 SEP 18 AM 11:14
DOCKET SECTION



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

The Honorable Tom DeLay
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congressman DeLay:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-j-27, the Department instituted *the 1998 U.S. -Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service from Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider **all** relevant factors in making our decision.

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Rodney E. Slater



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 32, 1998

The Honorable Ron Paul
U. S . House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congressman Paul:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted *the 1998 U.S. -Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3 863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service ~~from~~ Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand ~~that~~ I cannot ~~comment~~ on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted the *1998 U.S. -Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service from Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

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Rodney E. Slater



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

The Honorable Ken Bentsen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congressman Bentsen:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted the *1998 U.S.-Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service ~~from~~ Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of ~~any~~ application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

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Rodney E. Slater

980717-024



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
U. S . House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congresswoman Jackson Lee:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.


By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted *the 1998 U.S.-Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service from Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

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Rodney E. Slater

980717-024



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congressman Brady:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted the *1998 U.S. -Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service ~~from~~ Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

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THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 31, 1998

980717-024

The Honorable Nick Lampson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

Dear Congressman Lampson:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting air transportation from Houston to Brazil.

By Order 98-5-27, the Department instituted the *1998 U.S. -Brazil Combination Service Case*, Docket OST-98-3863, to select an air carrier to operate seven weekly frequencies available for U.S.-Brazil combination services effective October 1, 1998. Continental Airlines is one of four applicants for such authority and has proposed to operate service from Houston. Since Continental's application is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

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Rodney E. Slater

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 1998



The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write you today in support of the application of Continental Airlines to serve **Houston/Sao Paolo, Brazil**. In recent years, Continental and the City of Houston have worked closely together to build a strong gateway to Central and South **América**. We see the **Houston/Sao Paolo** market to be an essential component of this gateway and urge your favorable review of Continental's application.

Houston already has strong economic link with Brazil that would grow even stronger with new nonstop service. There are 1,250 Houston area companies doing business in Latin America of which 45 have subsidiaries in Brazil. Moreover 180 Houston firms trade with Brazil. Houston is one of only nine U.S. cities that have Brazilian consular representation and several major Brazilian corporations have offices or subsidiaries in Houston. Houston is the second largest U.S. port for trade with Brazil in dollar terms and the largest in terms of exports -- Brazil is Houston's fourth largest seabome trade partner.

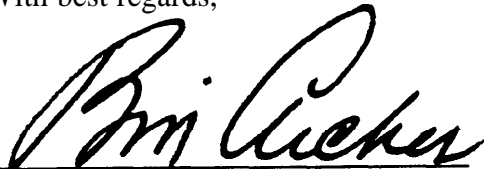
As Houston Mayor Lee Brown indicated in his filing at the DOT, the absence of nonstop Houston-Brazil service is a major void in Houston's impressive (and growing) Latin America air transportation network. There is significant potential for increased traffic with Brazil once Continental's application is approved for nonstop route authority between Houston and Sao Paolo. Today Houston generates, on an annual basis, 750,000 kilograms of Brazil air cargo. A significant portion of that cargo must be trucked for air connections outside of Houston -- some to as far away as Miami. This does not make economic sense. As you know, Metropolitan Houston is the nation's fourth most populous city with over 4.2 million residents. The Latin American community has played a key role in the City's growth as a center for international business and transportation. This community, especially those of Brazilian descent who desire to see their families and **friends**, and those who do business in Brazil, will clearly benefit **from** new nonstop service;

Continental is the only applicant in this particular route case that has proposed truly competitive U.S.-Brazil service at a new U.S. gateway. The other applicants are proposing redundant service at existing U.S. gateways. Continental is one of Houston's largest employers and together with

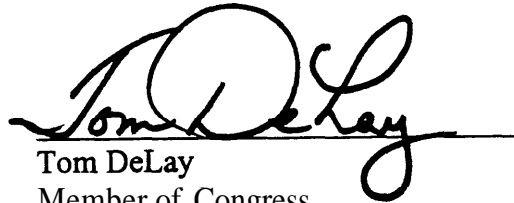
the City of Houston, Continental has developed the second largest air transport gateway to Latin America. Since 1988, Continental has inaugurated service between Houston and 23 Latin American cities. We are anxious to see Continental build on this track record and strengthen our Houston gateway to Central and South America even further.

Mr. Secretary, this is an important opportunity for Houston. We urge you to approve Continental's application for nonstop service between Houston and Sao Paolo.

With best regards,



Bill Archer
Member of Congress




Tom DeLay
Member of Congress



Ron Paul
Member. of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Ken Bentsen
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Nick Lampson
Member of Congress